

didates for House offices, the minority party candidates being presented in the form of a substitute amendment to the resolution offered by the chairman of the majority caucus.<sup>(6)</sup> There have been exceptions, however; in the 89th Congress,<sup>(7)</sup> no substitute amendment was offered, and the resolution offered by the caucus chairman pertaining to the election of the House officers was immediately agreed to.

A Democratic Caucus rule<sup>(8)</sup> provides that, "In the Election of Officers and in the Nomination of Candidates for Office in the House, a Majority of Those Present and Voting Shall Bind the Membership, of the Caucus."

### *Nomination Procedure*

**§ 7.1 The names of the majority party's candidates for House offices are presented to the House by resolution, and a substitute resolution is usually offered by the minority party naming that party's candidates for the offices.**

6. The proceedings relating to the election of House officers are discussed in detail in § 3.9, *supra*. See also Ch. 6.

7. 111 CONG. REC. 20, 89th Cong. 1st Sess., Jan. 4, 1965.

8. Rule 6, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971).

On Jan. 3, 1969,<sup>(9)</sup> the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus offered a resolution naming selections for Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, Doorkeeper, Postmaster, and Chaplain. The Chairman of the Republican Conference asked for a division on the question on the resolution so as to have a separate vote on the office of Chaplain; that portion of the resolution providing for the election of Chaplain was then agreed to. The Chairman of the Republican Conference then offered a substitute amendment to the remainder of the resolution, naming different persons to the posts; the substitute amendment was rejected, the original agreed to.<sup>(10)</sup>

### **§ 8. —Creation of Party Committees**

The main party organizations in the House, the caucus and the conference, have from time to time delegated some of their functions to smaller party committees. Generally, the creation of, and the determination of membership on, such specialized committees are in large measure functions of the caucus or conference.

9. 115 CONG. REC. 34, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.

10. See also § 3.9, *supra*.

A Republican Committee on Committees consisting of one Member from each state having Republican representation in the House was created in 1919 by resolution of the conference.<sup>(11)</sup> The Republican Committee on Committees is largely responsible for assigning Republican Members of the House to House committees.<sup>(12)</sup> Members of the Republican Committee on Committees are selected by the Republican delegations in the House from the several states,<sup>(13)</sup> subject to the approval of the conference.<sup>(14)</sup>

The Democratic Caucus has also delegated to a Committee on Committees the responsibility for assigning party members to House committees, such assignments being subject to caucus approval.<sup>(15)</sup> In past Congresses, Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means have served as the Committee on Committees for their party<sup>(16)</sup> and the

caucus, by secret ballot, has elected the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means.<sup>(17)</sup>

A Steering Committee was created in 1933 by the Democratic Caucus.<sup>(18)</sup>

The responsibilities of the Steering Committee lay mainly in the area of ascertaining and consolidating party sentiment with respect to particular legislation, and assisting in the development of party policy and floor strategy.<sup>(19)</sup> In order to provide a geographical basis of representation on the Steering Committee, the caucus in 1933 authorized the division of the United States into geographical regions, each member of the Steering Committee to be elected by the Democratic Members of the House from the several states comprising a particular region.<sup>(20)</sup>

In 1919, the Republican Conference created a Steering Committee, the members of which were to be nominated by the Com-

11. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3616.

12. See § 11, *infra*, for further discussion of the party Committee on Committees.

13. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3616.

14. See Riddick, Floyd M., *Congressional Procedure*, Chapman and Grimes (Boston, 1941), p. 36.

15. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3617.

16. See § 11, *infra*, for further discussion of the party Committee on Committees.

17. See § 9.1, *infra*.

18. 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3622.

19. See § 13, *infra*, for more detailed discussion of the party Steering Committee. For discussion of recent changes leading to development of the present Steering and Policy Committee, see supplements to this edition as they appear.

20. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3622.

mittee on Committees and elected by the conference.<sup>(1)</sup> Now known as the Policy Committee, the committee advises the Republican leadership on matters of party policy and strategy.<sup>(2)</sup>

Other committees that have been created by, and derive their authority from, the party caucus or conference include patronage committees,<sup>(3)</sup> political campaign committees,<sup>(4)</sup> and research committees.<sup>(5)</sup>

## § 9. —Assigning Members to House Committees

The House rules provide for election by the House of the standing committees,<sup>(6)</sup> their

1. See 8 Cannon's Precedents §3621.
2. See Congressional Quarterly's *Guide to the Congress of the United States*, Congressional Quarterly Service (Washington, D.C., 1971), pp. 142, 604.
3. § 14, *infra*.
4. § 16, *infra*.
5. § 12, *infra*.
6. Rule X clause 1, *House Rules and Manual* §669 (1973). A former version of Rule X provided that unless otherwise specially ordered by the House the Speaker should appoint the standing committees (see 4 Hinds' Precedents §4448); the Speaker in practice usually, but not always, accepted the Minority Leader's recommendations with respect to

chairmen,<sup>(7)</sup> and election by the House of Members to fill vacancies in standing committees.<sup>(8)</sup>

In practice, the political parties decide as to assignments of their respective party members to House committees, and resolutions providing for such elections are presented in the House by the majority and minority parties as soon as they are able to perfect their lists. The practice is indicated in the following exchange from the Record of the 92d Congress:<sup>(9)</sup>

MR. GERALD R. FORD [of Michigan]: Is it correct that the resolution presently before the House is a resolution offered on behalf of the Democratic caucus? The resolution is the recommendations for committee assignment on the Democratic side.

THE SPEAKER:<sup>(10)</sup> The gentleman is correct.

MR. FORD: Is it the procedure to be followed that subsequently a com-

minority party members' committee assignments (see discussion in 8 Cannon's Precedents §2172 [quoted remarks of Joseph G. Cannon]). For further discussion comparing the former with the present practice, see Riddick, Floyd M., *Congressional Procedure*, Chapman and Grimes (Boston, 1941), pp. 35, 36.

7. Rule X clause 4, *House Rules and Manual* §672 (1973).
8. Rule X clause 5, *House Rules and Manual* §673 (1973).
9. 117 CONG. REC. 1710, 1711, 92d Cong. 1st Sess., Feb. 4, 1971.
10. John W. McCormack (Mass.).